

Dublin, 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan. 1837

Dear Mrs Chapman - Enclosed you have all the papers referring to Douglas, in the way of warning or comment on his character that I have been able to find in your letters. I have all the letters you ever wrote me, and in app-<sup>ro</sup>p-<sup>ri</sup>ate ad-<sup>re</sup> - ~~and~~ Mrs Webb has visited me in the search, these eyes are much quicker than mine.

No. 1 must be the letter so often referred to. It was written before D. came over. Your letter introducing him & Buffum is dated Aug. 14. 45, and a weekly paper. No. 2, dated Oct. 27, 45, shows you how soon I have seen some of my views of his character. Indeed he was not many days over Great Britain before I saw he was a self-deceiver and grossly ungrateful, for his conduct to Buffum was insolent & unbecoming. ~~to the last degree~~. My admiration for his ability, never slackened, but I have ceased to feel much warmth or confidence towards him. If I ever read him or showed him any part of your letters to me, it must have been in Sept. 45, and judging from my own habits, what I would be likely to do with them I had no special confidence in, I cannot think I ever felt towards Douglas in such a way as to show him such ~~an~~ a marked estimate of his good sense & forbearance. In No. 5, dated Mar 1, 46, in which you imply your disapproval of my having shown your letter or read parts of it to Douglas, you say that you told D. of the drift of what you wrote me before he left home, <sup>you think</sup> I should less than my usual tact in showing your letter or reading any part of it to him. Now I think the thing may be explained in ~~the way~~ without any admission on my part that I acted so incorrectly, and in a way for which there was not only no necessity, but which is contrary to my habitual caution, & is forbidden by the express terms of your letter, (No. 1) in which you wish to avoid the odium of counselling

Ms. A. 9. 2. 28.

I. directly yourself. There was no necessity, for any warning about the known Committee in the first month of Douglass's stay in Ireland - for he had no knowledge of temptation from them at that time - and that month was the only one in which I could have been likely to place any such confidence in him. My theory is this - for I have no recollection of the facts. You had hinted at the contents of a letter to me. Soon after he came, on perhaps two occasions, I saw him a hint as to some small matters of demeanour that I thought worth of me to him & another his way - which he received so easily, that I saw the sort of man he was, and abstained from further interference. He also saw that I greatly disliked his insolent harsh behaviour to F. W. Buffum, and probably pretty thoroughly, and my hints, and your intimation together, as a quick-witted & suspicious man <sup>might</sup> readily ~~do~~ <sup>would</sup>, he began to look on me as a spy set over him by you. This also might have easily happened without a breach of confidence, but, I fear since on my part, that is not one of the blunders I could be most likely to commit. The whole strain of these extracts shows that you mistrusted him very soon, and that from an early time you felt uncomfortable about him. At the very first meeting he held in Dublin, I saw that he looked to himself, and as I did a great deal for him & for others, for which I got ~~nothing~~ <sup>nothing</sup> ~~in return~~ <sup>in return</sup> and no thanks (tho, in the only letter I ever had from since his return to the U.S., he admitted he had done me some injustice) he was very soon begun the work of that sympathy on my part which induces me to show any one the confidential letters I receive. My wife and her sister Maria's writing have for years past been the only readers of the vast majority of letters I get from America, with the exception for the last two years of the British who also see all mine & show me all theirs - so that writing to them is like writing to me - and this has been my only consolation for the entire

Dr Wm. Chapman - March, went to all my seal & Richards' supplemen- of our assignment of Parker Pillsbury. Wm is a fine fellow. The gentlemen attending me. Wm is in new shoes, but more anxious. Wm is worth the Wm is in new shoes, but more anxious. Wm is worth the



abridge of any correspondence with you or even  
for such a very long time. A long letter to Ellen  
last week telling of my long absence & of the letter we  
had from my son from Australia, I have heard whether  
the letter? I know how much his hand should have  
been occupied, but if it came to hand, I thought there  
might have been some allusion to it in a letter to his  
mother, such as saying she had had the letter, but had  
not time for a reply. Your letter just written came to  
hand yesterday, as we sat at breakfast on Sunday morning  
with Parker Pillsbury along with us. We have been ex-  
ceedingly. The day after I heard of his intended voyage.  
I wrote to ask him to come to us immediately. But he  
started too soon to get it. However, he anticipated my  
invitation, and a brother would not be more welcome.  
Here he may stay as long as he pleases, & recruit his  
shattered forces. The longer he stays the better we shall  
be pleased. He can rest, or walk, or sit and read.  
He would not be more welcome in any home in Boston.  
We have a deal of talk - and I think my experience may  
be of some use to him in many ways. Yesterday he got  
a kind letter from a countryman in London inviting him  
to bed Howard - and another from that noble Charles  
Hovey who came to England to see the friends of the  
cause, but did not come to Dublin where we would  
feel our stranger's room honored by having him to  
sleep in it. But don't mind the word room - we  
have plenty of rooms.

I may say in a letter to Mr. Ellen which I have  
read that he thought Parker had better go on to the Anti-  
slavery for his health's sake - while far more thought was  
anxious he should travel through in St. Pauline &  
Dublin to remove or repair the ~~Douglas~~ mischief that  
might be caused by Douglas. I run of opinion with Mr.  
that he must first look to himself - he is not fit for the  
kind of anxious lecturing in a new country without a  
companion. He is a shy man. As to Douglas, there

are a good many women and girls who see Douglas and whose whole idea of the cause is concentrated on Douglas as a dashing fine fellow - but these there is no reasoning with, & they are not of much importance. I don't know any male Douglassites - nor any <sup>female ones</sup> among the old, intelligent, tried friends of the cause. If we are to judge by contributions I imagine they will be little affected by anything Douglas has said or done or is likely to do - thoroughly selfish and unscrupulous & thankless as he is. My advice for Pillsbury would be to go to Bristol from Dublin - for the English wish to see him. He should not miss the chance of seeing the best friend the cause has on this side the Atlantic while he is yet to be seen. From there to London & then to Paris & so on. He must not make & wear himself. His own remarkably like H.C.W. - but there is more directness & simplicity about him that about Wright. He is more likely to make his way - careful that the views he holds against Philistines, & his ideas of the duty of exposure, & there where necessary are much more developed than they were when H.C.W. was here, by any of the abolitionists. I think it most probable he will make an uproar when he brings forward such subjects in any anti-slavery meetings he may hold in these islands. We have not had any late letters from our Alfred - the days Melbourne is a fine place for hard workers who have not home ties - but he longs for home having no friends there - my brother in law having virtually turned him out of doors by abusing those who helped him in Ireland - Alfred's nearest relations. We have the greatest satisfaction in all our friends, but are naturally becoming weary about him. I hope Lucia may be useful by the day to Paul as much as you desire. It is always very gratifying & satisfactory to hear from or of you & you have no want or more respectful & willing worker any where than I am. With my warmest regards to you all, I am ever truly yours  
Richd. D. Webb

Rich<sup>d</sup> Webb

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